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Remarks

This is filed in response to the final Office Action mailed February 23, 2004, in the above-cited case. That action allows claims 22-25, but rejects claims 1-3, 7, 8 and 14-16 over Lipkin (US 2002/0049788 A1) in view of Bradford (US 6,678,679 B1) and/or Delcambre (US 2002/0059566 A1). The amendments, above, cancel the rejected claims without prejudice. The Applicants respectfully request that this application be passed forward to issuance.

Comments of Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

With respect to the proffered reason for allowance, the Applicants traverse same to the extent it differs from a mere restatement of the claim language. Applicants further traverse the Examiner's statement and reasoning insofar as they would lead to or suggest, if at all, an interpretation of the claimed invention different from the full extent of claim scope afforded thereto by the established law in the absence of the statement of the reasons for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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